

MEDIA RELEASE



**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
March 7, 2007**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
Western District of Kentucky**

**Contact: Sandy Focken
(502) 582-5911**

MAYFIELD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG TRAFFICKING

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today that **MARIO COLLINS**, age 30, of Mayfield, Kentucky, in Graves County, pled guilty to possessing with intent to distribute crack cocaine.

As set forth in the Indictment, on June 6, 2006, **Collins** had approximately 22 grams of crack packaged for sale, which is worth approximately \$1000 on the street. A Mayfield police officer found **Collins** and a passenger parked in a car with its engine running, on Gibson Drive in Mayfield. The officer saw what appeared to be a bag of crack in the open ashtray of the car, and called for back up assistance. U.S. Attorney Huber praised the work of the Mayfield Police saying, "This excellent police work will keep a crack dealer off the Mayfield streets. We are glad to assist them."

Collins is facing a mandatory minimum prison sentence of 10 years, and the maximum potential penalty is life imprisonment, a 4 million dollar fine, and supervised release for at least 8 years, and possibly for life. As part of his plea agreement, **Collins** agreed to forfeit his interest in 4 Bellagio Chrome Spinners worth approximately \$5,000 and \$989 in currency. Sentencing is scheduled before the Honorable Judge Thomas B. Russell, on June 19, 2007, at noon.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amy M. Sullivan, and it is being investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Mayfield Police Department, and the Pennyrile Drug Task Force.

- END -

DLH:AMS:07202